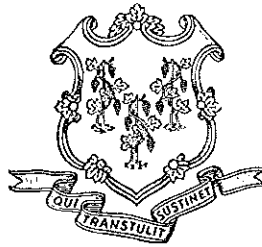


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State of Connecticut

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Fourteenth District

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Testimony to the Commerce Committee

February 10, 2015

Proposed Senate Bill 537 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for the Bryan-Andrew House in the Town of Orange

Chairman Hartley, Chairman Perone, and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of SB 537 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for the Bryan Andrew House in the Town of Orange.

This legislation seeks to authorize \$80,000 in bonding for the renovation of the Bryan-Andrew House under restoration by the Orange Historical Society since 2001. The grant includes restoration of the 18th century kitchen to fully functional use, repair and restoration of plaster and original wood molding and millwork furnishings, restoration of original paint and flooring, and a modern kitchen facility for community use in an adjacent addition. Balancing the priorities of economic development alongside preserving our past – particularly our colonial and revolutionary past – has never been a more pressing endeavor for Connecticut municipalities. As State Historic Preservation Officer Daniel Forest describes it, “preserving significant historical buildings and neighborhoods from our perspective is critical to connecting to our identity and sense of who we are.”

Built in 1740 the home, a near functional 18th century farmhouse, has had its structure and exterior renovations completed through membership dues and donations. The building has the incredible benefit of much of the original architecture of the first owners, who were among the founding families of Orange. This grant allows the Historical Society to complete the restoration and offer use of the home in three ways. First, a real time education experience for school children on the life and times of a colonial era family. Second, complete access to the community for use as a public historical site. And third, allowing businesses and social organizations on site hosting offering modern kitchen facilities in a historic setting. These services will also allow the Historical Society to become a self-sufficient entity with the revenue generated aiding in support of the organizations mission.

This site is a noteworthy attraction and a crown jewel in the history of Orange. I ask that the Commerce Committee consider authorizing state support to help move this restoration along for the good of all residents to enjoy the historical and education benefits this investment offers to the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

State Senator Gayle Slossberg